Spoiled Houses (Part II)

> **For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**
> **Hebrews 6:4-6 (KJV)**

When we tie this passage together with the previously mentioned (**Matthew 12:29 KJV**) we can plainly see that the consequences of allowing our "strong man" to be bound are eternal. Once we have allowed our temples to be defiled (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17 KJV**) to the point that the Holy Spirit departs, once the seal is broken (**Ephesians 4:30 KJV**) there is no turning back.

Is it sin that brings this about? I think not. If sinning after the Holy Spirit is in us caused Him to leave us not many of us would have Him, would we? Most of us are honest enough to admit that we sin on occasion. So a specific line must be crossed. Mark's rendering of this same exchange between the Pharisees and Christ reveals the answer.

> **And the Pharisees went forth, and straightway took counsel with the Herodians against him, how they might destroy him.**
> **Mark 3:6 (KJV)**

> **And the scribes which came down from Jerusalem said, He hath Beelzebub, and by the prince of the devils casteth he out devils.**
> **Mark 3:22 (KJV)**

What these Pharisees clearly decided to do was to slander Christ. Now keep in mind that they knew perfectly well that He was the true Christ, scripture tells us that it was for the sake of jealousy (**Mark 15:10** KJV), not disbelief that they sought to destroy Him.

> **Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.**
> **Mark 3:28-30 (KJV)**

By attributing the works of the Holy Spirit to the demon Beelzebub they *knowingly* blasphemed the Holy Spirit! Knowing is the key word here, you cannot commit this mortal sin accidentally.

> **And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.**

Luke 3:22 (KJV)

The miracles of Christ were the fruit of the Holy Spirit operating in His life. For someone to deny or disregard the Holy Spirit out of ignorance is not the same situation; it is only when one has been enlightened by the Spirit and tasted of Him and knows He is real and yet still disregards Him that the Spirit is blasphemed. So when these Pharisees claimed that Jesus cast out devils by Beelzebub they blasphemed the Holy Spirit and sealed their own fates eternally.

> **And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.**
> **Acts 4:32 (KJV)**

Ananias and Sappira were among these believers who pooled their resources under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They saw the power of the Holy Ghost, yet we see that they also made the same grave error of blaspheming the Holy Ghost by lying to Him (**Acts 5:9 KJV**). Talk about defiling your temple and getting destroyed by God (**1 Corinthians 3:16-17** KJV), in their case it happened on the spot!

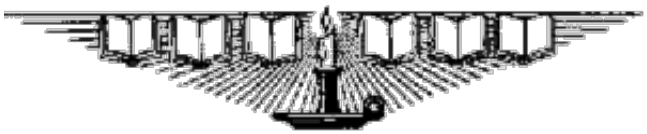
> **Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**
> **1 Timothy 4:1 (KJV)**

> **And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.**
> **Mark 4:17 (KJV)**

> **Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;**
> **2 Thessalonians 2:3 (KJV)**

The "falling away", departing the faith and becoming offended spoken of in these verses is something that is going to be rampant in these end times. Once the real persecution and troubles start those who were not prepared for them by false doctrines like "the love gospel" and false promises that they will be whisked out before having to endure any suffering and other false doctrines will become disillusioned, asking "Where is the promise of His coming?" (**2 Peter 3:4 KJV**) and once they realize that their salvation comes at a cost they will deny the true Christ and in so doing blaspheme the Holy Ghost and seal their fates eternally (**Hebrews 6:4-6 KJV**).

> **For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall shew signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect.**
> **Mark 13:22 (KJV)**

> **For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.**
> **Luke 14:28-30 (KJV)**

They've purchased a cut rate, false Christ. It's exactly like those who buy fake Gucci hand bags or Rolex watches; some of these replicas are very difficult to detect. You might be able to fool the average person, but the manufacturer can spot a fake instantly! Similarly there are many who lightly regard their salvation, who think a reasonable facsimile will be acceptable. They are unwilling to pay the real price of salvation, instead settling for a false one in the hope that no one will spot the difference. But the shepherd knows His sheep (**John 10:14** KJV), those who settle for a fake only cheat themselves.